

Daily Democrat

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Notice to Correspondents.
We respectfully ask that our correspondents will forward by the Express Messengers, from all points where there are Express facilities, letters giving important news intended for publication.

The Abolitionists in Congress have made great efforts to help the Confeds. They hardly took their seats before they poured forth a shower of shabby resolutions about the negro. They seemed to consider that the day of their opportunity had come, and that it behooved them to make the most of it. The more they labored the less progress they made. Bright as the prospect looked they were fighting against fate. Whilst there are moderate and common sense left, Abolition schemes can't prevail.

They would abolish slavery under the war power. They would make provisional governments for the South. What is this but revolution? The Confeds could desire nothing better; for then the Government would have no more color of right than they have.

It would then be a contest not to execute the law and vindicate the rights of the Union, but a war of one part of the Union to conquer and subvert the other. It would strip the Government of all pretense in the prosecution of the contest, and it would have to defend before the world a war of ambition, in which one part of the country was to make spoils of the other. It would have no claim to the loyalty of any citizen of the United States, for it would be a revolutionary government.

The dodge of confiscation of all rebel property for treason, the purpose of which is to free all the slaves, would be no better. Oh, it's to put down rebellion. The object is not to free the slaves; that is only a means to the end. The adoption of such means makes the Government itself a rebel, and one rebel is no better than another; one may be more audacious, and the other more hypocritical. We can choose, according to taste, between audacious impudence and mean hypocrisy.

If the Government uses such means to put down rebellion, the rest of mankind would be justified in putting it down, for it would also be in rebellion.

We don't mean that every unconstitutional act of a Government is a reason for war upon it; but when it starts out in a general crusade upon its own principles, the case is hopeless.

Aside from any constitutional consideration, the policy of such a measure runs into the most monstrous absurdity. When four millions of African slaves are cut loose from their masters, one race or the other must be expelled. They cannot live on the same soil. Society can be constructed on any theory of equality. God has made the races unequal, and man can't change the matter by laws or armies. All political science shows that when society settles down, the various attractions, antagonisms and inequalities adjust themselves, and no power, save the most rigid despotism, can disturb the settlement. The negro will fall into a subordinate position, and the dictates of humanity would restore in substance the institution of domestic slavery, just as it was before, after years of suffering and loss by fanatical folly and sectional ambition. Such would be the result of success in the grand scheme of confiscation and emancipation. The expatriation of four millions of people, no nation was ever fool enough to undertake. It is beyond the power and resources of any nation.

The relation of master and slave in the South is an institution of natural growth. It is utterly uncontrollable by any human power. It was not made by law, and can't be unmade by law. What changes time and Divine Providence may produce in the future, none can foresee; but these changes will be the growth of ages, or they will bring ruin and desolation to both races. Whatever crazy Abolitionists may think, time will prove the truth of what we have said.

This Abolition war is against manifest destiny, and sooner or later every man of sense in America will see it. Any Abolition success would cost too much; otherwise it would be the best means to open the eyes of the world to the folly of Abolitionism. It would not only embarrass and ruin the Government that undertook it, but it would inflict the greatest calamities upon the race it was intended to benefit.

Indeed, the evils and the impracticable character of their Abolition suggestions are too palpable to be overlooked, at least by some engaged in them. Their purpose is to intensify the irrepressible conflict, and render a restoration of this Union impossible. We are satisfied that this is the purpose, and it will be developed if the authors ever see an opportunity to dare show their hands.

We have no doubt that it affords some gratification to the Confeds invading this State to issue proclamations, and tell Kentuckians how they came to protect our people, not to make war on them. "I will send them strong delusions," the good book says, "that they may believe a lie and be damned." We apprehend the Confeds belong to that class of reprobates. They keep up the cant whilst they are daily robbing and murdering Kentuckians. Thirty thousand armed Kentuckians will knock this cant out of them before they get through.

The Nashville Louisville Courier, of the 26th ult., says that when its Government extends Louisville, the editor of the Journal will hardly wait to see its full operation, or if he does, "it will be very short and summary." This threat to hang our neighbors is a generous return for his efforts to effect the release of some Confederate prisoners confined at Fort Warren, among others an estimable gentleman formerly editor of the Courier.

The report of the fraudulent contract is called the Van Wyck report. It is not only Wyck, but wicked.

The Trent Affair in the South.

In the midst of the exultation of some of the Southern press, we find some papers which indicate more reflection. The Memphis Appeal of a late date contains the following:
There is one phase which is not impossible for this Trent affair to assume, that may precipitate us into troubles almost preponderating with the benefit we derive from it. Its tendency in the North is evidently to arouse the military spirit of the people, and expedite operations preparatory to resisting threatened invasion along the sea coast and the lakes. They cry now "to arms," from the Potomac to the Potomac, and we have but little doubt that, if necessary, another half million of men can be brought into the field under the stimulating influence of this embargo. Home forces raised and subjected to daily drill, throughout New England, will give a new impetus to the slumbering energies of that people which they have failed to feel since the loss of the American revolution, when Massachusetts was enabled to put under arms one person out of every six in her whole population. Now she has but one out of every sixty. A similar effect will be observed in the Middle and Western States, though it may not be so sensible, and the rush of volunteers to arms become enthusiastic, solely from the apprehension of pending danger, AS WAS THE CASE IN THE SOUTH SIX MONTHS AGO.

Then suppose diplomacy and red tape, in the meanwhile, should find solution for this Anglo-American difficulty in the maneuvers of the pen, an instrument which, we are told, is "lighter than the sword." Would not the awakened energies of the North, relieved from the danger of foreign intervention, be developed in redoubled efforts to effect the desired conquest of the South? May not the immense, but fictitious, display of military strength, which will soon be visible, encourage the confidence of the enemy in his ability to succeed by force of mere numbers? If such should be the case, we may expect to have no easy time of it, provided the Trent affair blows away in smoke and dust. The true policy, therefore, is for us not to relax our exertions, but to be ready, if necessary, to put forth our whole strength in the defense and maintenance of our political liberties.

The Appeal is just in its estimate of the effect of the Trent affair, an effect which we have ourselves foretold. This is not all the information we derive from the Appeal. We may infer that such a result is not so great in the South as it was six months ago. This arises from the fact that the people have had time to reflect and can no longer be hurried impetuously into their armies. Other indications, from the same source, show that the enthusiasm is slackening. In time it will cease, and we may hope for a reconstruction by the Southern people.

Governor Sprague, of Rhode Island, having been invited to attend the New England Society of New York, on the 22d of December, the anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims, replied to the invitation by a letter, of which the Providence Post says: "We take both pleasure and pride in publishing this letter of Governor Sprague. Its sentiments are the true and heartfelt sentiments of every Rhode Islander." The Rhode Islanders may well be proud of their Governor; every patriot in the land is proud of him. A country governed by such men cannot fail to be a happy country. Noble-hearted, wise-headed, and strong-handed, he distinguishes himself wherever he appears. If Congress were composed of such men, how soon our troubles would be at an end!

The Confederate Congress, in deep and humorous appreciation of the distresses of Charlestonians from the late fire, gave, or forgave, them \$250,000 in paper currency, with the pious hope, doubtless, that in the burnt district paper houses could be erected. Charity (on paper) covers a multitude of sins, when it shelters the Southern rebels.

A hurricane attacked the gunboat Rinaldo, carrying Mason and Slidell. It is understood that if old Neptune sides them, England will demand their release, on account of the illegality in capture, unless, indeed, he founders the ship and takes it to the courts below to determine the prize.

It is stated, and it is very probable, that England will seize the present opportunity to open the San Juan Island affair. Let the United States meet her diplomatically and appoint a commissioner not to settle it.

An enthusiastic Confed says that Charleston Harbor, at the fight of Sumpter, became "the cradle of Southern Liberty." They could hardly object to our stone field when it rocked the cradle.

The investigating committee of Congress is in session at Cincinnati, and the rogues in that city are trembling. The patriotism of some of these men is wholly of a contracted character.

A CENTER SHOT.—The Boston Transcript says of the course of the Secretary of the Navy, "Honorable merchants do not collude with a brother-in-law to cheat their principals that he may reap a profit."

Buckner took charge of a section of the Nashville road and has torn it up and destroyed it. It is a more disastrous charge to the Union men of Kentucky than ever his soldiers will make.

It is to be said of Gen. Rosecrans, that he has proved himself a great General, notwithstanding the disadvantages of a West Point education.

The Indianapolis Sentinel offers to bet some one a hundred dollars. Of course, this is only a poetic flight—editors not being of the dollarous kind, but only men of cents.

It is stated in the press that an engagement may soon take place between Heinzelman, commanding the left wing of the army of the Potomac, and the rebels.

Col. Terry, who was killed at Munfordsville, was a brother of Judge Terry, of California, who killed Senator Broderick.

Austria is quarreling with the Sublime Porte, and it is thought she would endeavor to carve a Christmas Turkey.

Floyd and Cameron's "political friend" ought to meet in war, each being a foeman worthy of the other's steel.

Carl Shurz, the nightingale Republican, has resigned the Spanish Mission. Lucky for Spain.

The people of Europe seem to be in a fair way of understanding Jeff. Davis. We have published an extract from the London Times, in which he is charged with hypocrisy; and here is an extract from the Paris Debates, of December 11, charging him with blasphemy! He will soon have "an European reputation!"

Notwithstanding the eagerness which President Davis shows to proclaim that the new States of the South have no need of any foreign alliance, it is very evident that his manifesto is rather addressed to Europe than to America. In order to be convinced of this, it is only necessary to look at the prominent place which cotton holds in the document, and at the question of slavery, of which the assertion may be made that it shines by its absence. Although the English papers have given such a cordial welcome to the message of President Davis, we do not think it is of a nature to excite and popularize the cause of the South in the eyes of those in Europe who have not beforehand come to a determination on the subject. What has most struck us in the document is not the emphasis with which the victories of the separatists over the Federal troops are therein enumerated, but the violence of the recrimination directed by the President of the new confederation against the government and the people of the States who have remained faithful to the Union. "Our people," says President Davis, "now look with contemptuous astonishment on those with whom they have been so recently associated. They shrink with aversion from the bare idea of running such a connection. When they see a President making war without the assent of Congress—when they behold judges threatened because they maintain the writ of *habeas corpus* so sacred to freemen—when they see justice and law trampled under the armed heel of military authority, and upright men and innocent women dragged to distant dungeons—when they find all this tolerated and applauded by a people who had been in the full enjoyment of freedom but a few months ago—they believe that there must be some radical incompatibility between such a people and themselves." And we also do not hesitate to say that the anguinary struggle which is being carried on between the two fractions of the great American Republic is a spectacle, and a subject of painful astonishment for Europe, and we have with us to witness the spectacle of the dictatorial measures of the rigorous and barbarous proceeding with which Mr. Davis, with more or less reason, reproaches the Federal Government, particularly that relative to the affair of the steamer Trent.

But what still astonishes us is to see the President of the new Confederation, the chief of those eight millions of men who have broken their bond with their old government in order to defend slavery, invoke the great principle of right, justice and humanity, and even pronounce in support of that detestable cause, "Liberty," says Mr. Davis in conclusion, "is always won where there exists the unconquerable will to be free, and we have reason to know the strength that is given by a conscious sense not only of our rights, but of the righteousness of our cause." These are certainly magnificent words, but in the mouth of President Davis, and applied to the cause which he represents and defends, they are not only a monstrous contradiction and a scandal, but a blasphemy.

THE PRISON NOT ALWAYS A SCHOOL FOR VICE.—About six years since, says the Boston Traveler, a French Canadian boy, 17 years old, was convicted in this State of arson, and sentenced to the State Prison for life. All he had to do with the crime was to procure matches for another boy, who set fire at the instigation of a third party. When taken to the prison the boy could neither read nor write. He did not appear to be vicious, or to have acquired bad habits. The Chaplain and other officers of the prison took an interest in him, and being apt to learn, he has acquired as good an education as can be obtained at our common schools. On Thanksgiving Day a spirited hymn, written for the occasion by the convict, was sung by the prison choir. Since that time he has been pardoned out, by recommendation of the Executive Council. He spent a few days in looking about the city, and on Tuesday, having enlisted in a regiment now in service, he left for the seat of war, carrying with him the respect and best wishes of the officers of the prison, and all to whom his history is known.

The English squadron now on the Pacific—ready to attack San Francisco in case of war—is very small and scattered over many thousand miles of coast. The force consists of the following ships: The Bacchante (flag-ship), 51 guns; the Topaze, same armament; the Tergamant, 25 guns (all three frigates); the Clio, 21 guns; the Tartar, 20 guns (both corvettes); the Mutine, 17 guns; the Hecla, 6 guns (both sloops); making in all seven ships, mounting 191 guns, some of which—indeed, most of which—are of heavy caliber, the whole squadron being screw steamers: the Camelion, 17 guns; a screw steam sloop is on her way out, and there are two gunboats stationed off Vancouver Island.

A letter from Colonel Forney to the Philadelphia Press says: "If the letters written by the marked and known traitors in Philadelphia and New York to London and Paris, against the good cause, could be exposed, I predict that they would contain more aid and comfort to the foreign enemy than these crafty and industrious agitators (Mason and Slidell) have ever given to the domestic enemy."

The law regulating the price of absolute necessities has passed the Senate of Alabama. It provides that salt, wheat, flour, bacon, lard, cotton, osunaburgs, kerses, leather, shoes, cotton or wool cards, shall not be sold for more than sixty per cent advance on last April prices. The penalty is fine, forfeiture and imprisonment.

Gen. Philip St. George Cooke, a recently appointed Brigadier under Jeff. Davis, and not Gen. P. St. George Cooke, a loyal and gallant officer, although a Virginian, is the "distinguished rebel" whose recent suicide was telegraphed from Forts Monroe on Monday.

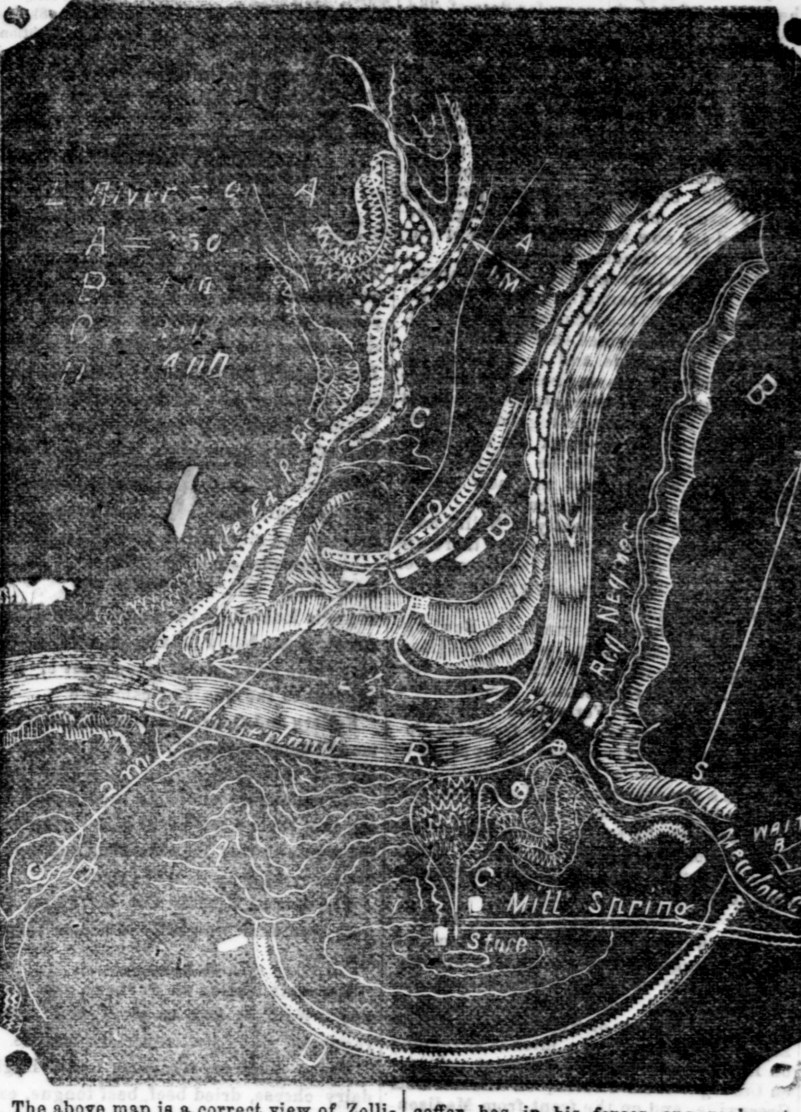
HEAVY DEBT.—The debt of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, including Pittsburg and Allegheny city, is nearly \$7,700,000, and the value of the taxable property is but \$28,000,000.

The Government of Bavaria has passed a law providing that all capital punishments shall be inflicted with closed doors, and in presence of only the necessary officials, and twenty-four citizens as witnesses.

As Cameron and Welles have made free with the public funds, no one can be astonished at their desire to free the property of private citizens.

It is rumored that a Prussian vessel of war, laden with ordnance, has foundered in the Atlantic, with all on board.

ZOLLICOFFER'S POSITION.



The above map is a correct view of Zollicoffer's "den," and to the eye of a military man, will prove that his position has been well taken. Selecting the mountainous region, on both sides of the Cumberland river, at a point where its course veers from due south to west, he has occupied the principal hills commanding all approaches by the river from both directions, as well as through the valleys of White Oak creek, on the north side, and Meadow creek, on the south. Some idea may be formed of the topography of the country, when we state that the hills, although immediately upon the banks, rise to an altitude of three hundred, three hundred and fifty, and four hundred feet above the level of the river, as at the points marked in the map—A, B, C, and D.

His forces, on the north side of the Cumberland, consist of six regiments, stationed on a high four hundred feet above the river, commanding the approach from both directions; and on the south side, of four regiments, commanding the valley of Meadow creek, and a depression through the hills from the south, about one mile west of Mill Spring. We have good authority for stating, as an incontestable fact, that Zollicoffer has in his forces one regiment of negroes, located just in the bend of the river, on the southern bank.

The geographical position of this entrenchment is as follows: From Somerset, about fifteen miles, southwest; from Waltsboro, on the Cumberland river, twelve miles; from Columbia, about forty miles, southeast; and about six or eight miles below the head of steamboat navigation. The position commands all the coal mines, and many of the salt wells in that part of Pulaski county, south of the Cumberland, and in Wayne and Russell counties.

The only route by which he can be successfully attacked is from the north, by the valley of White Oak creek, and a scaling of the hills in his rear—or by an advance from several points at once. This latter would require larger forces than General Schoepf has in his division; consequently we do not anticipate any movement on Schoepf's part, beyond so much as shall confine Zollicoffer to his present entrenchments, and prevent his retreat, until he is forced to surrender, or additional forces can be sent to assist in an attack.

The Question as to Whether any One was Killed at the Bombardment of Fort Sumpter Revived.

[Hilton Head Correspondence N. Y. Tribune.]
The question, if it is a question, concerning the loss of life at Charleston from the guns at Fort Sumpter, may receive some help from a consensus sense not only of our rights, but of the righteousness of our cause. These are certainly magnificent words, but in the mouth of President Davis, and applied to the cause which he represents and defends, they are not only a monstrous contradiction and a scandal, but a blasphemy.

The appearance of the Nashville, as described by those who saw her, is exceedingly rough and unattractive. It is judged that she could not, in her present situation, make another voyage. She is much battered, her rigging torn, her machinery out of order. In fact, she needs a thorough overhauling, which, from appearances, and her repairs were in progress, or that any supplies had been furnished.

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There are now in the harbor 14 steamers, 1 propeller, 4 ships, 3 barkas, 1 brig, 13 schooners, 5 floating batteries, besides two little dispatch steam tugs—in all 41 vessels. There are, perhaps, not half the vessels employed in the expedition, which will be largely reinforced at Fortress Monroe, for none of the naval vessels have come to Annapolis. All of the transports, large and small, are, however, armed, and carry large supplies of shell and ball for use in the field as well as on board ship.

A SIGNIFICANT HINT.—The London Examiner, of Dec. 14, is preparing for another canon ball. It says:

"Supposing reparation to be made for the Trent outrage, and the prisoners to be restored safe from Judge Lynch, which seems to be a natural sequence to Wilkes law, will it not be for the Powers of Europe to consider whether the measures the North is taking against the South are consistent with the interests of civilization? Is it to be endured that the Federal Government shall eke out the inefficiency of its blockade by the despicable means of vessels laden with stone to be sunk to choke up Southern ports?"

On a wet, miserable, foggy London day Charles Lamb was accosted by a beggar woman with:

"Pray, sir, bestow a little charity upon a poor destitute widow who is almost perishing for lack of food. Believe me, sir, I have seen better days."

"So have I," said Lamb, handing the poor creature a shilling—"So have I; it is a miserable day! Good bye."

Maximilian II., King of Bavaria, has just erected, in Munich, a statue to Schelling. It bears the inscription: "Schelling, the Great Philosopher. Erected by his grateful people, Maximilian II."

We have news from Hayti to the 28th ult. The death of President Geffard's mother, at ninety-four years, is reported. The flags of the foreign vessels were put at half-mast.

CARRIER'S ADDRESS.

TO THE PATRONS OF THE LOUISVILLE DEMOCRAT.

JANUARY 1, 1862.

Old Kentucky, Old Kentucky,
From your green and wooded hills,
Call forth your children
With a voice that ever thrills
All our hearts with the emotion
Of the bugle's shrill blast,
And awaken men to action
By the glories of the past.
Call upon them and they answer:
We are ready for the strife,
We are ready for the strife,
With the rifle and the knife.

By the blood of River Raisin,
By the battle of the Thames,
By the lives of Boone and Kenton,
And a thousand glorious names
Of the heroes that before us
Walked the war-path down to death,
And found a name immortal
Far beyond the passing breath.
Call upon them and they answer:
We are ready for the strife,
We are ready for the strife,
With the rifle and the knife.

From the plains of Minnesota,
And the great States of the lakes,
Comes the echo back responsive,
As the mighty West awakes;
Old Kentucky calls upon them,
By the struggles of the past,
And their children rush to rescue
In a storm and a vast.
God has made us one great nation,
Bound with mighty magnetic cords,
Linked us with the bounteous rivers,
Flowing down through fruitful plains;
And the great seal in the center,
Placed by the Almighty's hand,
Is the green hills of Kentucky
Blending all the pleasant land.

And by the seal of Union,
And this sacred cause of ours,
The banners of victory
Will crown our brows with flowers;
And though brother's blood has mingled,
Where the tide of war shall cease,
In the sacred wine together
We will quaff the cup of peace.

Old Kentucky, Old Kentucky,
With the British on the war-whoop,
And the woe of the olden days,
With the woe of the olden days,
Call upon them and they answer:
We are ready for the strife,
We are ready for the strife,
With the rifle and the knife.

Gov. Sprague's Letter.

PROVIDENCE, Dec. 23, 1861.

Very Dear Sir: I much regret that at the last moment I am obliged to announce my official and private business engagements in your anniversary celebration this evening.

I think I need not assure you that Rhode Island is by no means ashamed of her relationship. She is proud of being hailed as the cradle of the New England States. Not only is she proud of having won to her standard of unrestricted religious freedom all her sisters of the confederacy, and of having done so in giving to the civil institutions of the country form consistent with the greatest personal freedom of the citizen, but she is proud also of those who have been her associates and co-workers in this as in all other noble enterprises which she has been connected. We of Rhode Island are proud of New England's early sacrifices—of her almost unequalled fortitude under the most trying circumstances—of that Puritanical spirit of backbone which she has so frequently exhibited with great advantage to the whole country—of her unconquerable spirit of independence—of her churches and school houses, her ships and her workshops, her hills, her valleys, her rivers, her rocks, and her granite men. We claim our share of all that she has been and all that she is. And we would remind our sister States that while they may boast a great area of territory, we are privileged to dig so deep towards the center of the earth, and climb as high towards the great luminary above us all, as the largest of the political family. I sometimes say to our Rhode Island farmers that if they cannot plow as long a furrow as the farmers of the other States, they can at least plow as deep; and my own observation has taught me that while we cannot compete with the good old Bay State in the number of our cotton and woolen mills, we can nevertheless build as far skyward as we can without trespassing upon another jurisdiction.

But this aside. We are all New Englanders to-day. And when New England is threatened as she now is threatened, we may well forget State lines, just as we would forget State prejudices if these really had an existence, and leave States to be measured, by and by, as we now measure ourselves, not so much by their length as by their depth.

No section of our country is so deeply interested in the war in which we are now engaged as New England; and it is sometimes imagined that on the part of the South it is a war for the restoration of the government, with New England only left out. While we thus suffer only in common with the other loyal States, it is yet apparent enough that towards us, as New Englanders, with our long and bitter memories, and our high tariff interests, the feeling of downright hate is chiefly entertained by our Southern neighbors. How far we have deserved this distinction I do not discuss. It is enough for me that our fault—and for one I feel that I am not alone in the fault—have not justified and do not justify this terrible assault of wicked and misguided men upon our national institutions. The South may have been unnecessarily irritated, and unjust dealt with; she may have had cause of complaint; but she can present no reasonable and valid excuse for this war upon the best government that the wisdom of man ever produced.

But the war exists, and the necessity is forced upon loyal men of defending their government, not with words merely, but with strong right arms. I am glad that in such an exigency the men of all parties in New England, as in other loyal States, have promptly responded to the government's call. Where much is given, much is required; and where much is at stake, much is expected in the way of labor and sacrifice. Much is expected of New England, and I feel safe in saying that she will do her whole duty. I think I know what Rhode Island is, and for her I will pledge my word that while this war is prosecuted solely for the maintenance of the Constitution and the restoration of the Union, no disloyal or neutral or indifferent citizen will be found within her borders.

My dear sir, I trust that we shall not forget that the war exists, and the necessity is forced upon loyal men of defending their government, not with words merely, but with strong right arms. I am glad that in such an exigency the men of all parties in New England, as in other loyal States, have promptly responded to the government's call. Where much is given, much is required; and where much is at stake, much is expected in the way of labor and sacrifice. Much is expected of New England, and I feel safe in saying that she will do her whole duty. I think I know what Rhode Island is, and for her I will pledge my word that while this war is prosecuted solely for the maintenance of the Constitution and the restoration of the Union, no disloyal or neutral or indifferent citizen will be found within her borders.

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get that this rebellion is based upon a mistake; that the masses of the South have been deceived by reckless fanatics, men, touching our sentiments and purposes. It should be our object, while vigorously prosecuting the war, to give the lie to, and not to substantiate, the statements by which thousands on thousands of honest men at the South have been misled. Let us see to it that when the war is ended the Southern people shall blame their own leaders for having deceived them, and not us for having confirmed the stories these fanatics have circulated in reference to our motives. In this way only, it seems to me, can we restore the Union—a union of hands, and a union of hearts—and become again a happy, prosperous and powerful nation. For myself, I do most heartily disavow any other wish than that of bringing together these now belligerent States, without the loss to any one of them of a single right or privilege which it has heretofore enjoyed.

But I have no time to linger over the wide field towards which these remarks are leading me. Allow me to close abruptly by offering the following sentiment:

The Sons of New England.—Wherever Providence may cast their lot, may their motto for their country ever be that of New England's most gifted statesman—"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

Thanking you most heartily for your kind invitation, I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant, WILLIAM SPRAGUE.

Late and Important from South Carolina.

[Special Correspondence of the Philadelphia Press.]

HILTON HEAD, PORT ROYAL, S. C., December 25, 1861.

Since I last wrote you an important reconnaissance has occurred in the direction of Charleston. The loop of war between Captain Drayton, the gunboat Star, and Captain Ammon, and the Vixen, carrying one gun, Captain Boutelle, were dispatched to feel the batteries, if any should exist, at North and South Edisto Inlets, and elsewhere. They arrived at North Edisto on the 17th inst., and discovered at its entrance, and on the southern side, a deserted fieldwork, which had evidently been mounted with eight or nine guns. It was more elaborate in construction than any other work discovered in this region since the capture of Port Royal, and had not been completed, even when abandoned. The negroes reported that the troops were there the day after the fight at Hilton Head. On the right of Edisto inlet, branching towards the North, and not more than a mile or two from the coast, is a stream, on which stands the town of Rockville. Rockville is on the left of the creek, and, therefore, faces the sea. It appears to have been a place of perhaps a thousand inhabitants. After the Confederate party had definitely established that the fort had been deserted, their fire was not being returned, the Rebels went out to the Edisto, and a part of the crew of the Pawnee went ashore at the mouth. Next morning the Captain Drayton landed at Rockville, where negroes, who had been in the village, were gathered, and he found five or six hundred troops had been stationed the day before, but that, immediately upon the firing from the ships, they decamped. The boats with which they had been supplied were left as they were, and the condition of their camp. Tents to the number of forty or fifty remained standing; camp equipment of every description was left behind; forage and commissary stores were scattered all over the stream around. Private letters and papers in abundance were left lying loose, along with wearing apparel, and in some instances watches.

The body of Federals who landed was not more than fifty strong. The South Carolinians, who were so expeditious in their movements, probably were ten times as numerous. The Pawnee, of course, lay in the stream so as to cover the landing; but, as this was made in small boats, the vessel could easily have moored the invaders; but, with the desperate energy which has characterized their movements since the fall of Fort Royal, they hurried ashore, stayed away from Rockville. Among the prizes that fell into Captain Drayton's hands was the schooner and a number of boats. He also took away the tents and many of the stores of the abandoned army, and the entire force of the invaders, with the private dwellings of the town. As he had no orders to occupy the place, and no military force, he returned to his ship; but the rebels made no sign of interfering or of returning. Negroes reported, a day or two after, that an increased force had been sent down from Charleston, not more than fifteen miles away in a direct line; but if such a force was sent, it took good care to keep out of sight of the reconnoitering party.

The Seneca, meanwhile, penetrated some six or eight miles up the country on the Edisto. In every direction the rebels set fire to their cotton houses and gunnery stores. As many as twenty incendiary bombs were being witnessed from her decks during the little cruise. The negroes began coming aboard the very night of her entrance into the river, and the intelligence of the whereabouts and the movements of various small bodies of rebels scattered along the banks, telling, in some instances, what cotton houses would next be burnt, pointing out the places where troops were stationed, informing of the force at Rockville, offering their services as guides, as spies, as carmen, as pilots, and, in one or two cases, asking themselves on the march.

Captain Ammon chased a rebel schooner, fired into her, and drove her crew to small boats. As it would have been difficult, on account of the channel, to follow her further, a boat was sent in to take up the crew. The Seneca was aground, and could not be brought off, but as her crew was the enemy were obvious, she was burnt. A succession of small boats were found aboard of her. On the first day of her capture, the Seneca was aground, and could not be brought off, but as her crew was the enemy were obvious, she was burnt. A succession of small boats were found aboard of her.

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The reconnaissance was subsequently extended to North Edisto and Stono Inlets, but no such salient events occurred as marked its first portion. Some of the information obtained was not of a nature proper for publication. At South Edisto another deserted fort was found, from which the guns, apparently seven or eight in number, had been carried away. On the return of the party to Port Royal, Captain Ammon was sent back to North Edisto, and the Seneca to retain possession of the important advantages there obtained.

